Shiksha Kosh (PSK) has been established with effect from 14.11.2005 as a dedicated non-lapsable fund to receive the proceeds of the cess. Prior to this, however, plan allocations under various schemes have not been sub-divided accordingly to source (i.e. Education Cess and Gross Budgetary Support). The estimated receipts of Rs. 8,746 crore for the year 2006-07 will be transferred to the Kosh after exhausting the funds provided by way of Gross Budgetary Support (GBS). The funds in the Kosh will be exclusively used for Sarva Shiksha Abhiyan and National Programme for Nutritional Support to Primary Education (NE-NSPE) MDM.

Tax concessions to power sector

1522. SHRIMATI MOHSINA KIDWAI:
SHRI VIJAY J. DARDA:

Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are considering of removing disparity in tax treatment on generation, transmission and distribution in power sector and also qualifying pipelines and LNG facilities as core sector as has often been demanded by CII/FICCI, etc.;

(b) if so, whether this will entail any substantial reduction in revenue; and

(c) what are the salient features of tax concessions which power sector is likely to get during 2006-07?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI S.S. PALANIMANICKAM) : (a) No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

(c) So far as direct taxes are concerned, the Finance Bill, 2006 proposes to extend the terminal date for setting up of undertakings for generation, distribution and transmission of power from 31.3.2006 to 31.3.2010. With regard to indirect taxes, no fresh concessions for power sector have been given in this year's Budget 2006-07.

World Bank loan to Indian Council of Agriculture Research

1523. SHRI SURENDRA LATH:
SHRI RUDRA NARAYAN PANY:

Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that World Bank will provide $ 250 million loan to the Indian Council of Agriculture Research;